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proceeding, we should again turn our attention to the opportunities of peace. If we are successful in finally defeating, through our solidarity, this major threat by the Soviet bloc against our peace and security, we should be emboldened to be even more ambitious than in the past about ridding the Hemisphere of poverty, ignorance and disease, as well as of the international communist movement.

It is regrettable that our attention was necessarily diverted during the week of October 22 on the expanding nuclear missile capability in Cuba that few of us were able to give the preminence which it deserved to the first annual meeting, at the Ministerial level, of IA-ECOSOC in Mexico City. The US Representative, Secretary of the Treasury Dillon, and the Coordinator of the Alliance for Progress, Mr. Teodoro Moscoso, have informed me that the sessions were characterised by an atmosphere of considerable satisfaction in our achievements during the first year of the Alliance for Progress, coupled with a frank recognition of the deficiencies which had appeared in one way or another in the performance of all the participating countries. This is the only attitude which will make it possible for our peoples to gain more benefits from the Alliance during the second year than in the first year.

Hemispheric solidarity and cooperation can be just as productive in this peaceful and constructive enterprise as in the crisis in which we have just been involved. It may be less dramatic and sudden in its results, but it can be even more important and lasting in its benefits.

I am sure all of us have learned a great deal about international political forces from our struggle to preserve the peace of the Hemisphere. There will be many future crises, I fear, on the international scene or in individual countries, before the

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the world will be safe for freedom, but we have seen that the unity and courage of free peoples is more than a match for those seeking to threaten us.

The action of the present Cuban regime in permitting the USSR to place offensive nuclear weapons on Cuban soil has confirmed in unmistakable fashion our conclusion at Punta del Este in January that this Marxist-Leninist Government was incompatible with the Inter-American system. We must all hope the day will soon come when the Cuban people can exercise their right of self-determination by choosing freely the government under which they want to live.

I appreciated your prompt response by action to my urgent letter of October 22. I should welcome your views on this letter and on the opportunities which lie before us, as well as the dangers still to be avoided.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy ~~END QUOTE~~

Confirm time of delivery and report addressee's reactions.

Ambassador should request that text of letter be kept confidential.

~~END~~

RUSK

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DRAFT FOLLOWS

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RECORDED BY: THE INTELLIGENCE GROUP

11/21/62

COPY S MC: All Members of the NSC Executive Committee.

SUBJ LTT: Draft Letter from the President to the Chiefs of the US States.

Attached is a copy of a draft letter which it is suggested that the President transmit to the Chiefs of all the US States.

If the President approves, he will transmit this by telegraph as a message from the President.


 US Alexis Johnson
 Deputy Under Secretary

Eyes Only

DECLASSIFIED

18 SEP 1962

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 6/1/62

REVIEWED BY M. J. KELLY
 () CLASSIFIED () DECLASSIFIED DATE 6/1/62
 () DOWNGRADED () INACCURATE OR PART
 () DILUTED () INADEQUATE INFO.
 FOI NO. 1 PERIODICALLY
 () AUTHORITY TO
 () CLASSIFY AS
 () DOWNGRADE AS
 () CENSOR AS
 () OADR

Cat A - Captured and controlled by S S
 transferred to S S
 Cat B - Transferred to S S
 with another info
 controlled by S S
 Cat C - Captured and controlled
 retained by S S

Reviewed by E. H. KELLY
 Date 5/23/88

CONFIDENTIAL EYES ONLY Attachment

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~~EYES ONLY~~

17a

DRAFT LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY
TO CHIEFS OF OAS STATES

Dear Mr. President:

We now have evidence that the USSR offensive missiles are being removed from Cuba and the immediate military threat has been liquidated. We still seek fully adequate verification that all offensive weapons have left the island and safeguards against their reintroduction, steps the Cuban regime has thus far opposed and prevented. The quarantine has been lifted but no pledge with respect to invasion has been given to the Soviets by the US, and a close watch on events in Cuba continues to be necessary.

The fact that we have had a substantial measure of success thus far is due in very great measure, in my judgment, to the promptness with which the countries of the Hemisphere denounced unanimously the secret attempt of the USSR to use Cuba as a Western Hemisphere base for offensive nuclear weapons. Its effect was reinforced by the numerous prompt offers of military units or facilities for use in the quarantine.

With the Soviet offensive capability being removed from Cuba and negotiations on other points in my agreement with Chairman Khrushchev proceeding, we should again turn our attention to the opportunities of peace. If

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~~EYES ONLY~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State Sec 12/24/77
By pmg, NARS, Date 10/19/77

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~~EXES ONLY~~

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we are successful in finally defeating, through our solidarity, this major threat by the Soviet bloc against our peace and security, we should be emboldened to be even more ambitious than in the past about ridding the Hemisphere of poverty, ignorance and disease, as well as of the international communist movement.

It is regrettable that our attention was necessarily so riveted during the week of October 22 on the expanding nuclear missile capability in Cuba that few of us were able to give the prominence which it deserved to the first annual meeting, at the Ministerial level, of IA-ECOSOC in Mexico City. The US Representative, Secretary of the Treasury Dillon, and the Coordinator of the Alliance for Progress, Mr. Teodoro Moscoso, have informed me that the sessions were characterized by an atmosphere of considerable satisfaction in our achievements during the first year of the Alliance for Progress, coupled with a frank recognition of the deficiencies which had appeared in one way or another in the performance of all the participating countries. This is the only attitude which will make it possible for our peoples to gain more benefits from the Alliance during the second year than in the first year.

Hemispheric solidarity and cooperation can be just as productive in this peaceful and constructive enterprise as

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~~EYES ONLY~~

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in the crisis in which we have just been involved. It may be less dramatic and sudden in its results, but it can be even more important and lasting in its benefits.

I am sure all of us have learned a great deal about international political forces from our struggle to preserve the peace of the Hemisphere. There will be many future crises, I fear, on the international scene or in individual countries, before the world will be safe for freedom, but we have seen that the unity and courage of free peoples is more than a match for those seeking to threaten us.

The action of the present Cuban regime in permitting the USSR to place offensive nuclear weapons on Cuban soil has confirmed in unmistakable fashion our conclusion at Punta del Este in January that this Marxist-Leninist Government was incompatible with the Inter-American system. We must all hope the day will soon come when the Cuban people can exercise their right of self-determination by choosing freely the government under which they want to live.

I appreciated your prompt response by action to my urgent letter of October 22. I should welcome your views on this letter and on the opportunities which lie before us, as well as the dangers still to be avoided.

11/21/62-For NSC ExCom, 11/21/62, 4:00 p.m.

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